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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Korean pastor praises, warns America

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The pastor of one of the world's largest Baptist churches, speaking August 7 at Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton, thanked the citizens of the United States for their courage and determination in protecting his small country from its bellicose neighbor for more than 50 years.

Billy Kim, pastor of 15,000-member Suwon Central Baptist Church in Seoul, South Korea, credited America with helping to allow freedom — including freedom of religion — to flourish in democratic South Korea while more than 2,000,000 children starved to death in communist North Korea. He pointed to the children's choir and orchestra from his church that accompanied him to Clinton and said, "Without you, these children would not be here today."

On June 25, 1950, North Korean troops invaded South Korea in an attempt to unify the two countries under the communist dictatorship of Kim Il Sung. The United Nations came to the aid of South Korea, with a large majority of its troops coming from the U.S. The North Koreans were supported by communist leaders in the Soviet Union and China.

Although a truce was signed on July 27, 1953, after nearly 3.5 million casualties on all sides, the two Koreas have been unable to resolve their differences and are today still technically at war. While South Korea built its democratic society into a global economic powerhouse, North Korea remains a communist failure whose citizens have resorted to eating grass in recent years in a vain attempt to avoid starvation.

Billy Kim, who currently serves as president of the Baptist World Alliance, also made it clear that he is concerned America is drifting away from God and His plans for the great nation. "America cannot escape God's judgment, but America can turn from its wicked ways," he said.

Billy Kim said Korean Christians gather every day around the country to pray for revival, and he urged American Christians to do the same. "I believe prayer is key to revival," he pointed out.

Billy Kim's message and the performance by the Korean Baptist Children's Choir and Orchestra were part of the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at Mississippi College, which is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. Approximately 500 people attended the breakfast, which was followed by an annual



FANNING OUT — The Korean Baptist Children's Choir and Orchestra of Suwon Central Baptist Church in Seoul, South Korea, perform August 7 during the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton. Billy Kim, pastor of the 15,000-member Korean church, spoke at the prayer breakfast. Kim and the children were in Mississippi as part of their 2004 American tour. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

prayer walk around Clinton-area schools.

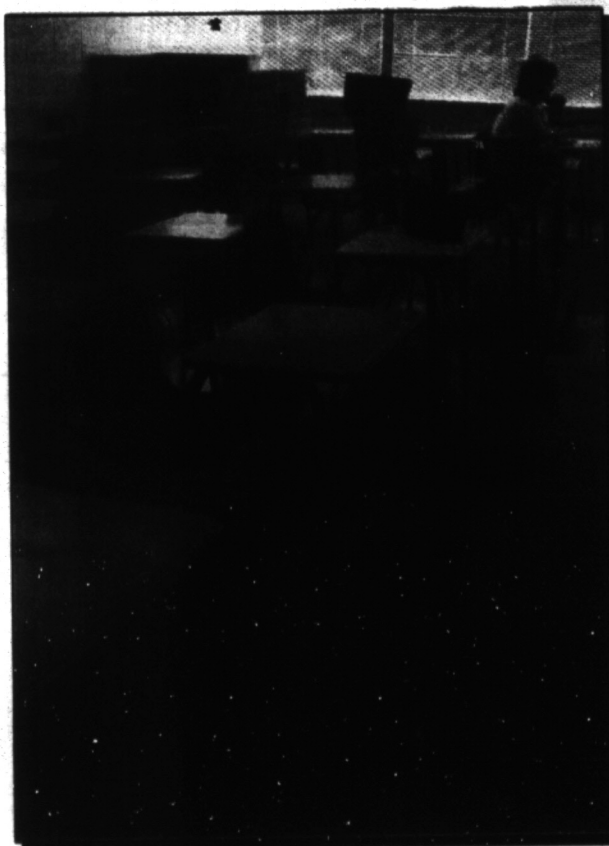
"It was a rewarding and inspiring experience for all of us to meet and hear the Korean Baptist Children's Choir and Orchestra and Dr. Billy Kim. We were very pleased with the crowd at the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. Many attended from the Clinton community and beyond, and our Korean guests made the

annual prayer breakfast preceding the prayer walk at our schools a very special event," said MC President Lee G. Royce.

During their tour of Mississippi, Billy Kim also preached at Parkway Church in Clinton and Highland Colony Church in Ridgeland, while the children's choir and orchestra performed at First Church, Jackson.

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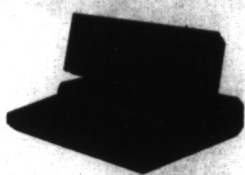
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TIME FOR PRAYER — An unidentified woman pauses for prayer in a Clinton school classroom during the August 7 annual prayer walk for Clinton schools. The event this year was kicked off with the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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When dry land is not really dry

There's an interesting battle brewing between the gambling/political complex in Mississippi and the people who believe casinos, like every other business and individual in the state, should submit to the rule of law. Most of the details are arcane but the upshot is that if the pro-gambling forces win this one, Mississippi is pretty much theirs with which to do as they please.

At issue is whether casinos can move inland on a whim and dredge publicly-owned tidelands to do so. Although Mississippi law mandates that casinos must be over water, the owner of Treasure Bay Casino on the Gulf Coast wants to move a few feet from his present location on the pretense of protecting his investment from hurricanes and other storms that blow in from the Gulf of Mexico. The new site is a tideland area that is entrusted to the supervision of Secretary of State Eric Clark, and the casino owner wants to dredge the tideland area deep enough to allow water from the Mississippi Sound to flow into the hole.

Voila! Once-dry land is now the perfect water-based casino site. Of course, extending that kind of thinking to its logical conclusion means that Southaven could have a legal casino site if a channel was dredged from the Gulf Coast to DeSoto County, so Mississippi Sound water could fill the hole.

At any rate, the Mississippi Gaming Commission twice approved Treasure Bay's site relocation plan over the protests of Clark and other interested parties. In early August, Harrison County Circuit Judge Robert Walker reversed the Gaming Commission by ruling that the new site was indeed 100% land and therefore ineligible under state law for a casino operation.

Properly chastised, the chairman of



the Gaming Commission, Lynn Blackwell of Gulfport, has this to say in an August 5 article by Nell Luter Floyd in *The Clarion-Ledger* newspaper:

It (Walker's ruling) points out we need help from the Legislature about how to best protect not just one casino but the entire industry on the Gulf Coast.

Did you catch that? The chairman of the state agency legally charged with regulating Mississippi's casinos for the benefit of the state's citizens is much more interested in engaging in political maneuvers to "protect" the casino industry than in seeing to it that the gamblers simply follow the law.

How one casino flouting state law can lead to a call to "protect" the entire industry will likely be a deep mystery to most Mississippians. From what does the casino industry need protecting?

Apparently, state law is the answer.

As confusing and troubling as that statement may seem, Chairman Blackwell is already on the record as supporting the casinos' move to land-based facilities, rather than compelling them to follow the law as currently written. Don't look for the casino creep to stop there, however. The gambling/political complex in Mississippi won't be satisfied until there's a slot machine on every street corner of the state.

While Clark and others attempt to make casinos adhere to state law, the Mississippi Gaming Commission fights them tooth and nail to "protect" the gamblers. It's time to remove the dual promotion/regulation responsibilities with which the Legislature has unfairly saddled the gaming commission; they can't please everyone and still uphold state law.

To continue down our present path can only lead to further disasters like this one.

Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, caused quite a stir when he said that young leaders were disconnecting from the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). He then invited younger leaders to "help formulate a strategy to solve the problems" (Baptist Press, June 28). As a 37-year-old denominational servant, I am not sure if I am a young leader anymore but let me at least add to the dialogue.

If we are to reconnect with theologically sound young innovators, we will need to:

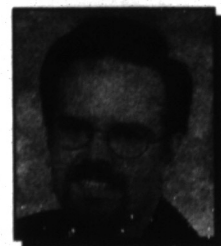
- Recognize that biblically sound innovations are being used effectively to reach the world. Two of our three largest churches (Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Texas, and Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Ca.) conduct purely contemporary services and also are leaders in baptisms each year. A contemporary style of service is not unbaptistic and does not compromise sound doctrine.

- Remember that being Southern Baptist is about theology and cooperation and not methodology. To be Southern Baptist means that we believe certain things and cooperate together to build God's Kingdom. We have settled the

GUEST OPINION:

Bringing young leaders into the fold

By Ed Stetzer
North American Mission Board



doctrinal issues (though watchfulness is always needed). Yet, for too many, being Southern Baptist has been a matter of cultural or geographical identification and methodological conformity. Instead, we need to bless all types of scripturally sound churches.

- Avoid using our public gatherings to teach that originality is compromise. I have been to conferences where speakers have preached against everything from sitting on stools to wearing Hawaiian shirts. If even common and mild departures from pulpit norms are attacked when younger pastors go to our events, should we be surprised that they just stop attending? Preaching against them may get a "big amen" from some, but the Amen Corner gets older and smaller every year.

- Provide a vision of worldwide

impact that will attract them. Emerging leaders want to be a part of something because of its impact and not just out of loyalty. Younger evangelicals are not waiting for the next convention program; they want to be a part of something that changes the world. A vision for Cooperative Program partnership and collaborative missions needs to be cast to emerging generations.

Innovation for its own sake should concern us all — and many innovations need a biblical/theological critique. However, some of our institutions have forfeited their place in the dialogue because they are still arguing about whether you have to wear a suit to preach a biblically faithful sermon — and young leaders are far, far away.

Honestly, most young leaders are not pining away for their SBC partnerships. Emerging leaders struggle

when they are asked to support a system that continually condemns the practices they endorse. Yet, if they do not become enthusiastic about the team, we all will be wondering what happened to our convention 25 years from now.

Many of us were too young to be a part of the Conservative Resurgence, but that does not mean we do not love the Bible, our cooperation, and our convention. If we want emerging leaders to be enthusiastic about our team, we will need to offer them meaningful leadership roles because we value them and the way they do ministry.

I love the SBC and pray that other young leaders can feel the same way, but if we "invite" but do not "welcome" them, our overtures will go unheeded. Let's do what it takes so that biblically conservative and methodologically progressive young leaders find the SBC to be the kind of partnership we all know it can be.

Stetzer is manager of strategic networks for NAMB, helping connect to young leaders for the purpose of church multiplication. He also is the coauthor with Elmer Towns of a new book, *Perimeters of Light: Biblical Boundaries for the Emerging Church*. He can be reached at estetzer@namb.net.

So. Baptists reaching out to South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (BP) — The African sun glints brilliantly off the little one-room tin shanty. The roof glows like a beacon among the dirt paths and ramshackle huts crowded on the South African hills. Inside the shanty it is peaceful and cool. A handmade sign hanging from the fence announces that this blue-trimmed tin shanty is the meeting place of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

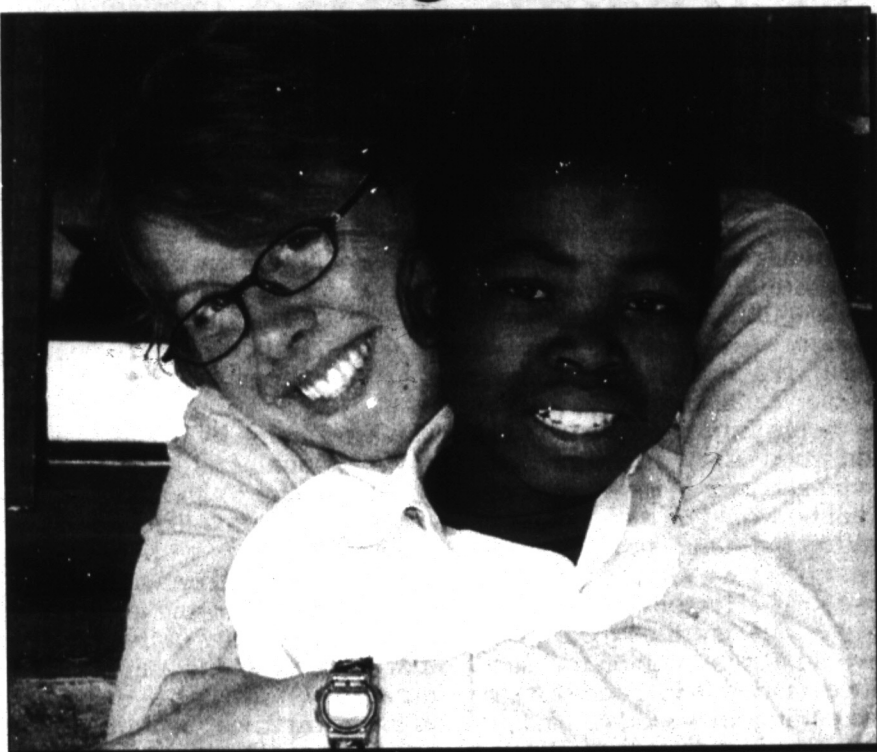
This is Diepsloot, South Africa, an informal settlement situated just north of Johannesburg in South Africa's Gauteng (pronounced How-tang) province. Diepsloot sprang up 10 years ago when squatters from all over southern Africa came to Johannesburg seeking jobs. They built shacks on unoccupied land using what materials they could scrounge up: corrugated tin, clumps of clay, a few bricks and scraps of wood.

Today, the government is slowly replacing the shacks with modest two- and three-room tin-roofed cottages serviced with electricity. Water is drawn from common spigots. Still, unemployment exceeds 50%.

Emmanuel Church was planted by International Mission Board (IMB) missionary Kurt Holiday. The little congregation grew out of a Bible study conducted under an old tarp strung between poles outside the home of Dokotela Mdimiso, an elderly local resident.

Dokotela owns a plot of land in Diepsloot. On this plot is the one-room tin shack he calls home. Surrounding a narrow common area are four other tin shacks which he rents out for a pittance. A few months ago he made a place for the blue-trimmed tin Baptist church building.

Inside the church there is just enough room for 20 men, women and children to gather each Sunday for praise and worship. The room is smaller than a typical American living



BIG HUG — Melissa Hall, an International Mission Board worker in South Africa, nudges a smile from a youth identified only as Rodney. The presence of Baptists in Southern Africa is small but growing. (BP photo by Brent Thompson)

room. A fiery young preacher named Thobabasiu Segoto leads the congregation.

"We need to preach and preach, and evangelize and evangelize," Pastor Segoto says as he stands outside the church building and passionately looks out over the hills of Diepsloot. Segoto lives more than 30 miles away. He does not have a car, so he has to take a series of minibus taxis to get to the church. It typically takes him an hour and a half one way.

"We do not know whom God will save. We want a stand [a plot of land] for all the people of Diepsloot," Segoto explains before the service. "Hopefully, we can buy a stand and plant a larger church there where everyone can see it and reach Diepsloot for Christ."

The worshipers begin to filter in. They are excited to see that IMB missionary Charlie Lechner and IMB journeyman Melissa Hall have come to visit. There are hugs and warm greet-

ings as men, women, and children assemble inside. Scraps of carpet partially cover the gravel floor. Twenty folding chairs are arranged in three rows. The front row sweeps around the side of a folding table covered with a white cotton tablecloth. The table serves as the pulpit.

Pastor Segoto's native language is Sotho. His congregation's native tongue is Zulu. So, Pastor Segoto speaks and preaches in English, and one of the church leaders, Innocent Ncube, translates into Zulu. Soon the bright sounds of Sotho and Zulu Christians worshipping soars from the tin church.

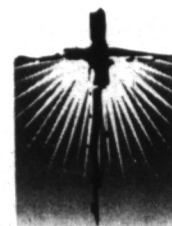
"Hosanna, Hallelujah, Hosanna, Hallelujah." There are no musical instruments. No one can afford them, but there really isn't room for them. Bibles are used to beat in rhythm and keep time to the songs as bodies sway and hands clap.

"Church plants like Emmanuel Church is just one part of the church planting and church development work of Charlie and Angie Lechner and Kurt and Janna Kay Holiday in the western Gauteng province

of South Africa. They call themselves the Western Gauteng Evangelism Team (WGET). Another part of their ministry is training pastors and church leaders who in turn will lead churches throughout the Gauteng province.

Each Monday night, Charlie Lechner drives about 30 miles to the town of Ennerdale. There in the worship hall of the Ennerdale Outreach Ministries complex, he meets with five pastors from the surrounding areas. They are there for Theological Education by Extension (TEE) to earn their Christian Worker's Certificates through the distance learning program of the Cape Town (South Africa) Baptist Seminary.

Using curriculum developed by the seminary, tonight Charlie will give an exam on their New



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

**THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

Record

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*Restoration
conference
announced*

Morrison Heights Church, Clinton is sponsoring an August 26-28 conference entitled, In His Time: Restoration through Honesty — Offering help and hope to those struggling with same-sex attraction and for their family and friends.

Conference leaders include Bob Stith of Dallas, leader on the task force on homosexuality for the Southern Baptist Convention; Bruce McCutcheon, director of Quest Ministries in Atlanta; Jason Campbell, residential house manager for Love in Action of Memphis; social worker Wendy Leger; Lee Paxton, student ministry intern at The Master's Design Ex-Gay Ministry in Monroe, La.; and Charlotte Yount with the Summit Counseling Center of First Church, Jackson.

Conference cost is \$10 per person. For more information and to register, go online at www.morrisonheights.org and click on In His Time under Ministries in the left-column menu, or call Wendy Copeland at Morrison Heights Church at (601) 925-6424.

Focus joins iVote

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The iVoteValues.com voter awareness and registration initiative of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) is now partnering with a familiar ally, Focus on the Family, in the effort to make even more voters aware of their responsibilities on Election Day. James Dobson of Focus on the Family has teamed up with the ERLC's Richard Land in promoting the iVoteValues message that Americans need to give serious attention to voting their values, not their political party or pocketbook. The two evangelical organizations worked together to adapt the iVoteValues website and resources to reflect the cooperative effort of the two groups. The ERLC went live on the Internet with www.iVoteValues.com April 15 after devoting several months to developing the concept. Focus on the Family began working with the Southern Baptist Convention entity to explore how the two groups might work together in the effort. The Focus on the Family site, www.iVoteValues.org, mirrors the ERLC site, www.iVoteValues.com, in most areas. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as many as 25-35% of the voting age population is not registered to vote, which translates to between 45-65 million Americans. A recent study by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life shows that nearly two-thirds of Americans say their faith has little to do with their voting decisions.

Looking back

10 years ago

In yet another demonstration of the independent mood of state Baptist conventions, a Florida Baptist committee votes to keep most of the money the state convention sends to the Home Mission Board through the Southern Baptist Convention budget.

20 years ago

The first shovels of dirt are turned at Camp Garaywa in Clinton for the new \$300,000 multipurpose building, which will house at least eight much-needed conference rooms, a large auditorium, and expanded kitchen facilities.

50 years ago

Charles Davis, member of First Church, Grenada, is youth pastor for that church's upcoming youth revival. Davis is a member of the 1954 All-State football team and has recently surrendered to the ministry.

CELEBRATING SENIOR ADULTS

Most of our Baptist churches have within them a good number of senior adults and that my friend is good! Statistics show that America is aging. We are not only living longer, we are living well and longer. What is true in our nation is also true in our churches. I just want to say, "Thank God for senior adults!" Thanks for those who are faithfully serving the Lord now and those who have already gone on to be with the Lord. Our senior adults are important. They are important to God, to God's family, and to the future.

Occasionally, I will hear someone refer to the older folks of a church with a tone in their voice that communicates disdain. They have a view of senior adults that is not very positive. That is sad because they are probably missing a blessing in not knowing those aging saints around them and on the other hand, the senior adults are also missing a blessing.

As with every age and stage in life there are some positives and negatives about senior adulthood. Let's think about just a few of the "Don't Have" and "Do Have" elements in senior adult life. There are some things that senior adults "Don't Have" and we need to be clear and understanding about them.

For one thing, they don't have long to live. For the most part, senior adults are living in the last quarter of life. Interestingly enough many will live longer in their senior adult years than our Lord Jesus lived in His entire life. That makes senior adult years rather significant if they are used wisely and invested eternally. I've known a few folks who thought that the value of a senior adult life was reduced

because they didn't have long to live. What warped and absurd thinking!

Jesus met a man at the end of his life who was not a senior adult. Both of them were hanging on a cross and the man dying alongside of Jesus said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest to thy kingdom." Jesus responded to him and dealt with him as though he was the most important person on the face of the earth. As a matter of fact, to Jesus, he was! "Today thou shalt be with me in Paradise," Jesus responded. Isn't that amazing? Jesus took time to care for this man, respond to him, deal with his need, and point him to the future even though life consisted of only a few more hours. The value of a person's life is not to be measured on the basis of how much time they have left but on what they do with the time they have!

A second thing that senior adults don't have is endurance. They may not be able to go as long, as hard, or accomplish as much as they once did. What we must remember is that the real value of life is not found in just what we do, but who we are. Now, I say they don't have endurance, but I recognize that any of you who have ever worked with senior adults or been on a trip with senior adults know that they probably have more "stick-with-the-stuff" than any two or three of us who might be around them.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

I know of many senior adults who could work circles around folks half their age, but the measurement of their endurance is how much they used to do some years back.

Some years ago I needed some firewood and a friend of mine, who was over twice my age, said that he would help me cut some. We set a time and early one morning we headed to the woods. He told me that he would just cut the wood up if I would just throw it on the truck. Trees started falling and he started cutting up wood and I started pitching it on the truck. We had been out there about two hours and I announced to him that I was going to have to go because I had forgotten that I had to go to a funeral. He replied, "You have got a funeral this morning?" I said, "Yeah—mine!" He was about to kill me! Our senior adults still have a lot to give!

Now, turn your attention for a few minutes to the "Do Haves." There may be some things that they are lacking in, but our seniors have some things in their lives that the rest of us may not possess.

One thing they do have is a richness of life. They see the

beautiful, broad spectrum of life. There are a lot of beautiful and wonderful things you can see God do if you live long enough and pay attention. What a marvel

to see a child born, grow, develop, and to watch God shape and love that child. Marvel as you watch them as they begin to nurture their own children. These are just things that you can learn in life by living it.

Occasionally, I will hear someone refer to an aging saint and say something like he or she "has mellowed with years." Well, it's true. For what they often are able to come to understand is that many of the things that are so upsetting, ruin a relationship, or disrupt a disposition, are just trivia. Senior adults often become sweeter with years! Now, please understand I know that is not always true. Some of the most negative, grumpy, gripey people I have ever known in my life are senior adults. I have lived long enough to discover that some of those who are like that in senior adult years were that way as median adults, as young adults, and a few of them were that way when they were teenagers.

I suppose the principle that is at work here could be stated something like this: "What you are you will be, only multiplied several times!" People who have a right heart and a willingness to

grow, mature, and be more loving will become that increasingly. Those who have a hard heart and a knot-head approach to life will probably have that spirit also, only multiplied.

Another thing that senior adults do have is resources. Not all, but many of our senior adults have discretionary funds that if they choose can be invested in Kingdom work. They have resources of time as well as money to do something for our Lord. You see, life is different at this phase of senior adulthood. The demands of life as far as the kids, or work, or other ventures, are different. Often the house is paid for, the children are not in college, and hopefully, the stack of bills is not quite as high.

A dear friend of mine who made a large contribution to a Christian institution told me that his understanding of stewardship involved how you secure your money in Christian ways, how you share your money, and how you expend it with Christian principles in mind. He is right and what a great lesson and what a marvelous blessing. You may have known of some senior adults who wanted to use their wealth like a club for leverage to get their own way. They are the rare exception rather than the rule. So many of God's marvelous saints are blessed to be in a position to use their resources of time, energy, insights, and wealth to bless others!

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Artist in Residence, Baylor University



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

August 19, 2004

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

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Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Fax () _____ E-mail _____
Church membership _____
City _____ Association _____
No. of females in group _____ No. of males in group _____
(Please attach the names, t-shirt sizes, addresses, phone numbers and e-mails
for each participant you are registering.)

LODGING: (choose one)

GUEST HOUSE: _____ \$14 per person, includes linens

CABINS: _____ \$8 per person, does not include linens

MEALS: (choose package or individual meals)

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_____ \$7 Fri. Dinner, _____ \$5 Sat. Bkf., _____ \$6 Sat. Lunch., _____ \$7 Sat. Dinner

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+ MINISTRY FEE \$ 5.00

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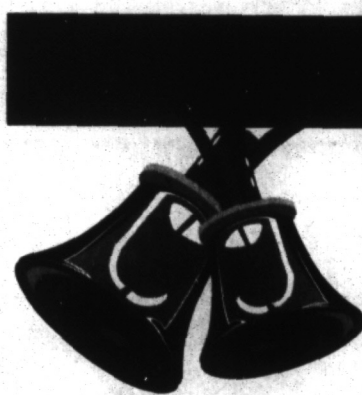
_____ Acts of Kindness (acts helping people)

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State Handbell Leadership Seminar

**SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2004
WYNNDAL BAPTIST CHURCH
TERRY**

Clinician Christine Anderson

Schedule Friday, September 17

6:00 p.m. Registration

6:30 p.m. Classes

Saturday, September 18

8:00 a.m. Coffee and donuts

8:30 a.m. Classes

10:30 a.m. Group Rehearsal

11:30 a.m. Mini-concert

noon Safe journey home

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State Handbell Leadership Registration Form

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TOTAL Amount Enclosed _____

Attala Baptist Association
Impacting Your World Rally

for YOUTH

Chip Henderson - Pastor: Pine Lake BC, Brandon

Sunday, September 19, 6 p.m.
First Baptist Church (SON Bldg.)
Kosciusko

Attala Assoc. Impacting Your World

Sunday, September 19, 2004, 6 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Kosciusko

CHIP HENDERSON - pastor: Pine Lake BC,
Speaker Brandon

ASSOCIATION TINA HUDSON
MASS CHOIR Testimony
Music

Exhibits 5 p.m. The Commons, FBC, Kosciusko

Attala Baptist Association

Children's Discipleship Rally

Jan Halford

Ventriloquist &
Music Evangelist

Sunday
September 19
6 p.m.

FBC Gym, Kosciusko

Mississippi Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference



OUR GUEST SPEAKER

Gaye Martin

October 25, 2004

First Baptist Church, Jackson

(Fifth Floor)

1:15 to 4:45 p.m.

For more info:

Contact the Pastor/Leadership
Development Department

Phone: 800.748.1651. ext.305
or 601.292.3305

E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

in a Worship Concert

Sunday, August 29, 6 p.m.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Columbia

32nd Annual

CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY CONFERENCE

October 1-2 2004

First Baptist Church Corinth, Miss.

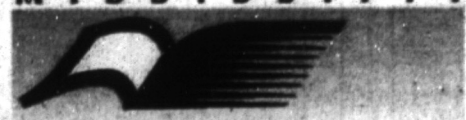
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Robin Jones Gunn
Portland, Oregon

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Denham Springs, La.
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CAROLYN WALKER
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MISSISSIPPI



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Annual Missions Celebration

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

October 8-9, 2004



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WMU's

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celebration

Faithful - Forward

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Consider God's Plan
Commit Our Best

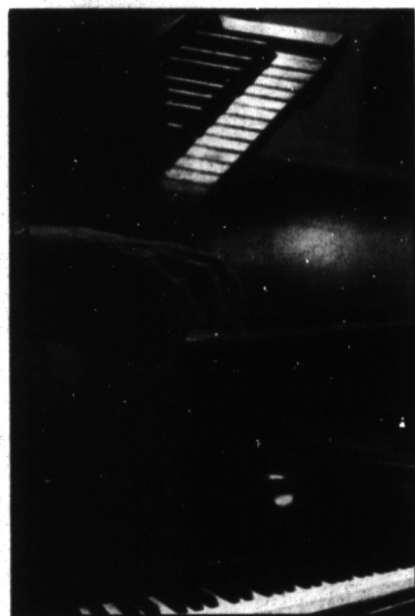


Jim
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Enlightenment
for any accompanist*



**Accompanist
Conference**

**September 24-25
Oak Forest BC
Jackson**

**PARKING IN REAR OF
CHURCH**

**6 p.m. (24th)
thru noon (25th)
Cost: \$15**

CLINICIANS INCLUDE:

Gayden Sikes - Yazoo City
Tommy Creel - Brandon
Michaelle Harrison - Ocean Springs
Brenda Wilder - Clinton
Irene Martin - Forest

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

Theory Enrichment - basic to advanced for all accompanists
Skill Enhancement - modulation; registration and pedaling techniques (organ); playing of hymns and praise and worship songs; today's technology, etc.
Enlightenment - my ministry as a musician, relationships with others, etc.

This is a skills clinic for all accompanists who play the piano, organ, or electronic keyboard for worship, praise teams, children's choirs, adult choirs, youth ensembles, etc. Make plans now to attend.

For info: MBCB Church Music Dept. 601-292-2272 or 1-800-748-1651

**JANUARY
BIBLE STUDY
PREVIEW CLINICS**

**"Hope When Believers Struggle:
Studies in the
Gospel of Mark"**

**Leading the studies this
year are:**



Ivan Parke
Assistant Professor of
Christian Studies and
Philosophy, Mississippi
College, Clinton
(Delta State; NWMSCC;
Lauderdale Association)

Eugene Dobbs
Retired Associate
Executive Director, MBCB
Church Ministries Consultant,
Philadelphia
(FBC, Biloxi; William Carey;
Pike Association)



Thad Moore
Pastor, Poplar Springs
Drive Baptist Church,
Meridian
(Blue Mountain; Garaywa;
Lake Tiak O'Khata)

September 20, 2004

- Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain
- BSU, Delta State University, Cleveland
- FBC, Biloxi

September 21, 2004

- BSU, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Senatobia
- Camp Garaywa, Clinton
- William Carey College, Hattiesburg

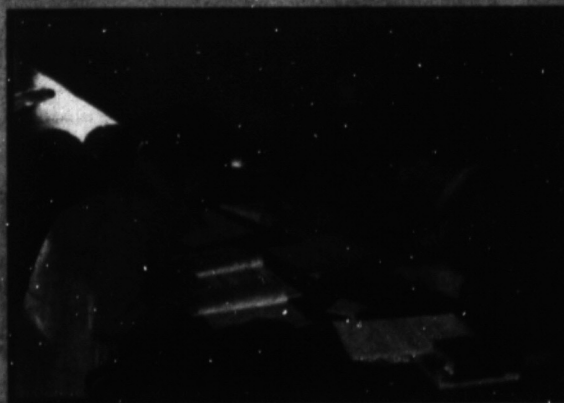
September 23, 2004

- Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville
- Lauderdale Association Office, Marion
- Pike Association Office, McComb

Registration begins
at 9 a.m.

Conference
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

For more info, contact the Sunday
School Department at 601-292-3292 or
1-800-748-1651 or jellis@mbcb.org.

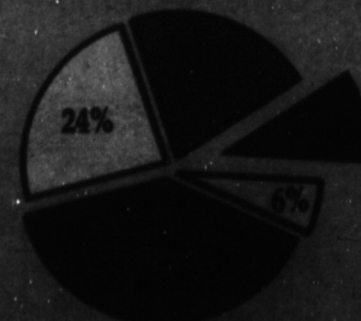


Never underestimate the power of the written word. "Su Lyn," the daughter of Chinese immigrants in Brooklyn, N.Y., was sent by her family to Cleveland, Miss., to learn English. She attended literacy classes offered through Wonderful Savior Hispanic Mission, a new Baptist church start. She learned to read the Bible and came to know Jesus Christ as her savior. After learning of "Su Lyn's" new found faith, the Cleveland family forced "Su Lyn" to return to Brooklyn. Unfortunately, she was greeted by her own family with persecution based

on her faith in Jesus. However, "Su Lyn" is faithful to the God who gave her new life. She slips out of her house to read her Bible and attend a local Chinese church. The power of the written Word of God is what brought "Su Lyn" to Jesus, but it is her devotion to Christ that reminds each of us what sacrificial faith really means. Our sacrificial gifts through the state

mission offering teach people to read, resulting in new Christians.

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



• Retreat Ministries - \$60,000 • Church Planting - \$40,000
• Mission Mobilization - \$340,000 • Human Needs - \$99,000

Ministry of the state mission offering is to provide financial support for the state mission offering. This ministry has the potential to reach people from all cultures, all ages, and all backgrounds, resulting in new Christians.

State Mission Offering

Pray this day for...

August 20-September 2, 2004

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"To be little with God in prayer is to be little with God in service. Much secret prayer means much public service."

- "The Kneeling Christian" by an unknown Christian

Camille Simmons is coordinator of ministry missions for the San Antonio Association. Pray for student missionaries and missions groups who are serving this summer. Pray for more churches to actively reach the inner city and for new ministries, One by One and Music for City Children.

Pray for a group of pastors' wives in Mombasa, Kenya, as they prayerwalk in the communities around their churches. Ask God to open their eyes to the needs around them, to give them a vision for reaching out to the unsaved in their communities, and a burden for their neighbors who follow other world religions.

For: (1) Discipleship Celebration, FBC, Laurel, 6-8 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Please pray today for Prime Minister Danial Akhmetov of Kazakhstan (Central Asia, northwest of China); (3) Please pray today for President Mary McAleese of Ireland (western Europe).

For: (1) Regional Senior Adult Rally, Association Family Life Center, Collins, 8:30-11:30 a.m. (D&FM); (2) Ken Belflower of Scottsdale, Ariz., works as a missionary with the Arizona Convention. Pray for a spiritual harvest in 16 apartment communities in east Phoenix.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting, Baptist Building, 10 a.m.; (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting, Baptist Building, 1 p.m.; (3) Discipleship Celebration, FBC, Brookhaven, 6-8 p.m. (D&FM).

For: (1) Regional Senior Adult Rally, Alta Woods BC, Jackson, 8:30-11:30 a.m. (D&FM); (2) Ron and Lisa Jones, missionaries to Reunion, a small French island in the Indian Ocean, have been trying to obtain their driver's licenses for several months. Pray that all the obstacles can be overcome.

In May 2003, the 12 year-old daughter of missionaries Grady and Claire Milstead died. Since that time there have been many opportunities to witness at the school where she attended in Argentina. Please pray that God will continue to open those doors to tell of the hope that one can have in Jesus Christ.

The spread of the gospel can seem to be very slow, but God works even when we cannot see. The Holy Spirit is at work in the hearts of people throughout Adeni, a southern city of Yemen. Pray that people touched by the Holy Spirit will be bold with what they hear.

Believers are less than 1 percent of the population of Bulgaria. Pray for the men and women in authority in the country. Pray for the president and the prime minister. Pray for the legislators, the judges and the police. Pray for the salvation of all people in positions of authority.

For: (1) Regional Senior Adult Rally, FBC, Starkville, 8:30-11:30 a.m. (D&FM); (2) Please pray for evangelism and church planting efforts among internationals in Bangkok, Thailand. Calvary International Church has a vision to lead its members in reaching the hundreds of thousands of internationals in this city of over 11 million people.

For: (1) Church Leadership Training with ALT choices, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 20th-22nd (MMU); (2) R. Eric Jewett of Jonesborough, Tenn., is a hospice chaplain with the Smoky Mountain hospice. Pray for the Jewetts as they are new to the community. Pray for many lives to be touched by their ministry.

Please pray for the young men that will be arriving in September for jungle and mountain training at the Xtreme Team training center near Lima, Peru. Pray that they will be ready to serve and will be teachable for the four months of training to go in the remote areas.

Workers on the Cardiff/Bristol Beltway Team have found that one of the largest refugee groups in their area is Somalis. Team members are grieved that no believers have been found among these people. Pray that as they share the Father's love, many from this people group will come from their long-held Muslim beliefs to faith in Christ.

Pray that God will begin to open the hearts of Bedouin people in Northern Africa. If a Bedouin man becomes a Christian, he is a doorway for his entire family to become Christians. In this culture, it will provide a support system for new believers if entire families come to know Jesus at the same time.

Special Ministries Retreat

September 10-11, 2004
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

For Exceptional persons (12 yrs. and older), their pastors/ministers, parents, teachers and friends.

There will be games, Bible study, singing and lots of fun for all participants. The theme is "Rickshaw Rally - Racing to the Son."

Registration begins 3 p.m., September 10. The retreat concludes at 1 p.m., September 11.

Cost is \$35 and includes overnight lodging and three meals. Please bring one adult counselor for every five campers.



Ageless GA Mother/Daughter Overnight October 22-23, 2004

Mother/Daughter overnight is a special time for mothers and their GA daughters (ages 5 to 105+) to share the excitement of missions learning. Activities include worship, campfire, crafts, recreation and a missionary visit. All overnights begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and end at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Cost: \$35.00

Deadline: October 8th

If space is still available after the deadline date, reservations will be accepted at the cost of \$40 per person. No refunds after the deadline date.

Please remember these WMU procedures:

- Please mail in your registration with payment.
- Reservations may not be made by phone. Groups wishing to bunk together must register together.
- Whenever possible, please send one check for the entire group.

HOUSE TOPS

HOMEcomings & REVIVALS

North Calvary, Philadelphia: Revival August 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon with light lunch and 7 p.m.; Jimmy Porter, MBCB, evangelist; Charlie Womble, Beacon Street, Philadelphia, music; nursery provided; Lawrence Runnels, pastor.

Forest, Forest: Homecoming August 21 and 22; Saturday, FBC Adult Choir and Community Choir, Video Presentation, and Ice Cream Social, 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; lunch at noon; Sonny Adkins, MBCB, evangelist; Clyde Little, remarks; Gordon Sansing, pastor.

Rocky Creek, Lucedale: Revival August 22-25; Sunday 11 a.m., covered dish lunch, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Roy Myers, West Point, guest speaker; Grant McLain, pastor.

Bethel, Hazlehurst: Homecoming August 22; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner and fellowship will follow; Ace McVay, former pastor, guest speaker; Del Gann, pastor.

Calvary, Mount Olive: Revival August 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m.,

dinner and singing and afternoon service will follow; Terry Runnels, Mendenhall, guest evangelist; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.

Temple, Petal: Homecoming September 12; dinner will be served and afternoon singing will follow.

Salem, Tylertown: Revival August 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish luncheon will follow, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Burrell, County Line, Kosciusko, guest speaker; Rob Schepers, music; Mark Wicker, pastor.

Concord, Bruce: Revival August 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Walk By Faith, singing and preaching nightly; William Williamson, pastor; all are invited.

Moak's Creek, Bogue Chitto: Homecoming September 5; lunch will be served; afternoon worship, 1:30 p.m.; Darnell Archie, preaching; Becky Haley, music.

Short Creek, Yazoo City: Homecoming August 22; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will follow; Don Jones, speaker; Alan Balliet, pastor.

Short Creek, Yazoo City: September 5-8; Sunday 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Dwight Sibley, evangelist; James Netherland, music.

Baxterville, Lumberton: Revival August 22-27; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Bobby Shurdon, Crestview, Petal, evangelist and music; Raymond Parkin, pastor.

Topeka, Jayess: Revival August 29-September 2; 7 p.m. nightly; Gene Douglas, McComb, vocational evangelist; Justin Smith, music; Dale Authement, pastor.

Carson, Jefferson Davis County: 100th Anniversary September 19; the church is seeking any information on the history of the church; call (601) 792-2821, (601) 792-5037, or (601) 943-6214.

Shalom, Lawrence County: Revival August 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, evangelist; David Lane, music; Doug Saxton, pastor.

STAFF CHANGES

Agricola Church, Lucedale, called **Tommy Mitchell** as senior pastor effective May 2.



Mitchell

Mitchell was previously the Executive Associational Missions Director of Gulf Coast Association.

Seminary Church, Seminary, has called **Larry LeBlanc** as pastor. He is a graduate of USM and NOBTS. He is currently attending USM. LeBlanc served as the associate pastor and minister of youth at Seminary Church since August 2001.



LeBlanc

COLLEGE NEWS

Five students will be named **William Carey College Scholars**, receiving full tuition scholarships, and honored at an awards dinner August 27 at 7 p.m. on the Hattiesburg campus. They are Elise Burton, Ellisville; Jenny Goar, Hattiesburg; Tracey Martin, Hot Springs, S.D.; Heath McNeese, Bogalusa, La.; and Grace Smith, Sumrall. First-time freshmen can obtain applications for the WCC Scholars grant, Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant Program, and other merit-based and talent based scholarships by calling (601) 318-6103.

New Orleans Seminary announces a new Doctor of Ministry/Doctor of Educational Ministry in Denominational Leadership. The application period for the 2005 Winter Trimester is in process with the deadline extended to September 1. To initiate the application process, go to www.nobts.edu/dmin or www.nobts.edu/dedmin, click on "application request" and submit the information. For more information, call (800) 662-8701, ext. 3728.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

The Revelations will appear in concert at Gunter Road Church, Florence, August 22 at 6 p.m. For more information, call (601) 932-4134.

New City Talent and Promotions presents an evening with the New Day Quartet August 29 at Cooke Memorial Church Pontotoc at 7 p.m. For more information, call (662) 566-7032 or visit www.newdayquartet.com. Buck Morton is pastor.

Financial Peace University, a 13-week study taught on video by Dave Ramsey, is coming to First Church, Madison. An introduction will be held August 25 at 7 p.m. and August 29 at 5 p.m. The Sunday class will meet from 4-6 p.m. and the Wednesday class from 6-8 p.m. Classes begin September 8 and 12. Cost is \$91 per couple. For more information, call (601) 856-6177, ext. 207.

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January Bible Study Preview Clinics

"Hope When Believers Struggle: Studies in the Gospel of Mark"

September 20

Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain - Thad Moore
BSU, Delta State University, Cleveland - Ivan Parke
FBC, Biloxi - Eugene Dobbs

September 21

BSU, Northwest Mississippi Community College,
Senatobia - Ivan Parke
Camp Garaywa, Clinton - Thad Moore
William Carey College, Hattiesburg - Eugene Dobbs

September 23

Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville - Thad Moore
Lauderdale Association Office, Marion - Ivan Parke
Pike Association Office, McComb - Eugene Dobbs

Registration begins at 9 a.m. • Conference 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per person, which includes lunch and copy of Shepherd's Notes on the Book of Mark. Make all checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Please check the session you plan to attend and mail to: Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. If you have further questions, please call 1-800-743-1651 or 601-292-3292 or by email at jellis@mbcb.org.

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MISSISSIPPI STAFF POSITIONS

PERMANENT PART-TIME FINANCIAL secretary position available. Send resumes to personnel committee, Daniel Memorial Baptist Church, 3784 Terry Road, Jackson, MS 39212. Or fax to (601) 376-4110, phone (601) 376-4100.

PART-TIME/FULL-TIME MINISTER OF students position. Send resume to Grace Memorial Baptist Church, minister of students search committee, 2412 23rd Avenue, Gulfport, MS 39501.

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, Hernando, Miss., is currently seeking a part-time children's director. Send resumes to personnel ministry team, Parkway Baptist Church, 50 N. Parkway, Hernando, MS 38632. For more information call (662) 429-6045.
BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH, Laurel, Miss., with 150-200 in attendance. Seeking a full-time music combination: music/youth, music/education

Director. Please send resumes to Jason Loper, Chairman, search committee, Bethlehem Baptist Church, 838 Reid Road, Laurel, MS 39443.

ENTERPRISE BAPTIST CHURCH, Clarke County Mississippi is accepting resumes for a bi-vocational/part-time minister of music. Please send resumes to music search committee, c/o Enterprise Baptist Church, P.O. Box 186, Enterprise, MS 39330.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Be Humble

1 Peter 2:13-14, 17-21; 3:1-4, 7-9; 5:5-7

By Mo Baker

If you could be recognized for possessing one outstanding character trait, what would it be? Some commendable qualities that might come to mind are faithfulness, sincerity, endurance, patience, and loyalty. One quality that the New Testament commands Christians to pursue is humility. Humility is an essential ingredient for living a successful and fulfilled life, as it includes having a proper perspective of one's responsibilities toward God and others.

Today's culture encourages people to focus their attention on themselves and on being first, often at the expense of others. Genuine humility is the opposite of such ideals, as it means doing something that doesn't come naturally: putting others first. Nowhere in the Bible do we read that we are to pray for God to humble us, but the Bible does speak about

Christians humbling themselves. How, then, do we learn to be humble? Let's look into the ways Peter suggests.

I. SUBMIT TO AUTHORITIES (1 Pe 2:13-14, 17-19).

Willing submission to the governing authorities was at the forefront of Peter's thoughts. He commanded his readers to submit voluntarily to those persons whom God had allowed to rise to positions of power. Their submission, however, was not to be mindless or without careful thought. On the contrary, they were to submit to the authorities out of reverence for Christ. As such, they were not expected to submit when doing so would mean violating God's will. Peter stressed submission in other relationships as well, even when submission is difficult or painful. The reason believers of every age are to submit is because it is com-

mendable. Those who suffer while doing good will be rewarded by God.

Willing submission to authorities helps to develop humility.

II. IMITATE CHRIST (1 Pe 2:20-21).

Christ's suffering serves as an example for believers. Christians are to follow His pattern by enduring hardship in the present age. As disciples of Jesus, believers are to follow in His steps and suffer as He did. Enduring pain and insult for the Lord manifests the reality of our allegiance to God. Moreover, the unjust suffering of believers will draw some to faith in Christ.

III. HONOR YOUR SPOUSE (1 Pe 3:1-4, 7).

Another way of learning humility according to Peter was in the marriage relationship. Peter encouraged wives to submit to their husbands. Peter's emphasis is on wives voluntarily submitting to their husbands instead of husbands forcefully requiring their wives to submit. Peter's command was addressed to the marriage rela-

tionship in general, with specific attention to unbelieving husbands. The submission of Christian wives to their unbelieving husbands could be a vehicle for bringing their husbands to the Lord. The pure conduct of godly wives can make a lasting impression on unbelieving husbands. Peter commanded husbands to be considerate of their wives, treating them with honor as the physically weaker partner in the marriage relationship. The treatment of a wife in this way shows that a husband respects her worth in the Lord. Husbands who ignore Peter's command will find that their own relationship with God will suffer.

IV. SHOW COMPASSION (1 Pe 3:8-9).

Christians can also demonstrate humility by practicing brotherly love with each other. An attitude of compassion is needed among believers in order for the church to function harmoniously. Obeying the exhortations of Peter will lead to smooth relationship within the church. Peter also directs believers to exhibit compassion to unbelievers who mistreat them. "Instead of insulting others or responding in

kind, believers are called on to bless others" (Schreiner 2003, 164). God wants believers to be a blessing to others, including unbelievers.

V. DEPEND ON GOD (1 Pe 5:5-7).

Humility is the catalyst that that allows relationships in the church to function smoothly. Peter instructed not only the younger people to submit to the elders of the church, but he also implored all believers to display humility toward one another. The ultimate demonstration of humility is to depend on God. Acknowledging your need for God in prayer and by your life is to confess God's sovereignty. By humbling themselves, believers will experience God's grace, since God places His favor on those who admit their need of Him. Peter encouraged believers to throw their worries all on God, because God will be compassionate to His children.

Learning humility is a lifelong process. Believers who live in humility can bring pleasure to God and nurture healthy relationships with others.

Baker is BSU Director at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Renewed by the Word

2 Kings 21-23

By Mary Carraway

Though Hezekiah was one of the most godly kings of Judah, his son Manasseh was undoubtedly the most evil. His reign of 55 years, the longest of any king of Judah, was characterized by shameful acts of apostasy, terror, and torture. Manasseh's actions "provoked" the Lord (v. 6) to anger. The coming destruction of Judah and Jerusalem was announced by the prophets, such as Isaiah, but went unheeded. Although 2 Chronicles 33:11-16 relates that Manasseh repented and lived the last of his life for God, it was too little too late. In spite of his attempts to turn the people back to God, they continued to worship at pagan altars. Amon his son, who continued the practices of his father, reigned only two years before being assassinated.

EVALUATION (2 KINGS 22:8, 11-13)

Josiah, along with his great-grandfather Hezekiah, stood head and shoulders above the other kings of Judah in devotion to God. Josiah "walked in all the ways of his ancestor David; he did not turn to the right or the left" (22:2). In the twelfth year of his reign, he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of their idolatrous practices by removing some of the prohibited high places (2 Chronicles 34:3). Josiah's greatest work as a religious reformer began when he was 26 with the repair of the Temple which had been neglected and defiled during Manasseh's time. This work led to the discovery of the "book of the law," probably the Book of Deuteronomy, but possibly the whole Pentateuch. Shaphan



Carraway

the court secretary read the scripture to Josiah. Whether he read the entire work is doubtful, but surely he read the blessings and curses that would fall upon those who kept or failed to keep the law of God (Deuteronomy 28). Josiah tore his clothes in an act of grief and repen-

tance as he understood the extreme depth of Judah's apostasy and the consequences of Judah's failure to obey the "the words of this book" (v. 13). He immediately sought information as to what needed to be done. The prophetess Huldah's reply was in two parts. Judah would experience all the desolation and curses described; but, because Josiah had repented and humbled himself, God would not destroy Judah until after his death.

COMMITMENT (2 KINGS 23:1-3)

Josiah could have breathed a sigh of relief for himself at this point, but he was concerned for the spiritual welfare of the people of Judah; therefore, he

assembled "all the people from the youngest to the oldest" and "read to them all the words of the book of the covenant" (23:3). Often hearing the word of the Lord can be more important than hearing about the word of the Lord. It is possible that entire generations in Judah had grown up without knowledge of this book and were either ignorant or forgetful of their covenant relationship with God. Josiah did not make an impassioned plea, nor did he issue a royal edict. Instead he became a model, first pledging himself to follow the Lord and keep His commandments. The people joined him in recommitting themselves. What an amazing revival can occur when the written word is revisited!

REMOVAL (2 KINGS 23:4-6)

Josiah's religious reforms embraced new practices and eliminated old ones. Verses 4-20 detail his efforts to eradicate idolatry, pagan practices, and idolatrous priests. Josiah's reform was not limited to Judah. He desecrated Jeroboam's altar at Bethel in

Israel. (For an interesting side note, read 1 Kings 13: 1-10.) Josiah removed everything opposed to pure religion and established Jerusalem as the sole place for worship of the Lord. He climaxed his reforms by observing the Passover with strict adherence to Mosaic Law for the first time in recent memory. He did what no other king had done before.

If only we could now say that they "lived happily ever after," but it was not to be. Josiah's efforts brought no lasting reform. In spite of Josiah's uniqueness among Judah's kings for turning to the Lord "with all his mind, heart, and strength" (v. 25), God's judgment upon Judah had already reached the point of no return.

A fresh encounter with God's word should cause believers to react accordingly by a fresh and lasting commitment to that Word and a removal of anything in our lives that competes with our devotion to God.

Carraway is member of First Church, Wiggins.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

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THE BAPTIST
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THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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So. Baptists teaming for Acts 1:8 Challenge

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MSC EV SHCLBQ LOS

BLOP REHSQ NWCHC

LHC LAQE SZICHQ

ILOZNZCQ: DMN VCLH

NWEM UES.

CJJACQZLQNCQ VZIC:
QCICO

Clue: B = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew 6:34

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP and local reports) — Southern Baptists' two mission boards are partnering with Baptist state conventions and local associations to help transform churches into worldwide mission centers.

Leaders with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and International Mission Board (IMB) presented the new communication strategy called the Acts 1:8 Challenge to state convention and associational partners during NAMB's annual Summer State Leadership Conference July 25-29 in Orlando.

The leadership conference was held in conjunction with NAMB's Connection 2004 Preparing for Kingdom Growth conference for Southern Baptist pastors, missionaries, and associational directors of missions.

The Acts 1:8 Challenge is a comprehensive missions strategy based on Christ's promise of the Holy Spirit to empower His disciples to share the Gospel in "Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

On May 19, trustees of both NAMB and IMB met together at First Church in Woodstock, Ga. — a first in the history of the boards — to adopt a resolution affirming the Acts 1:8 challenge. Trustees also met for an extended joint prayer session.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has taken up the Acts 1:8 Challenge program, with David Michel, associate executive director for missions strategy, heading up a cross-departmental committee tasked with adapting the program to the work of Mississippi Baptists.

NAMB and IMB leaders are encouraging churches to apply Acts 1:8 in their ministry contexts each year by participating in missions concurrently on the local, state, national and international level.

By adopting the missions strategy, churches would commit to mobilize volunteers for missions in their "Jerusalem" through opportunities in their local Baptist associations, their "Judea" through their state conventions, their "Samaria" through NAMB and "the ends of the earth" through IMB.

"You have a primary partner in your local association, your state convention, NAMB and IMB to help you, the local church, as the center of the recipient of Jesus' Great Commission," said Nate Adams, NAMB's vice president of mobilization and media.

As part of the Acts 1:8 Challenge, pastors or mission leaders are encouraged to make a formal commitment to implement the missions strategy church-wide by registering as an Acts 1:8 Challenge church at www.ActsOne8.com or by calling the Acts One8 Response Center at 1-800-4-ACTS18 (800) 422-8718.

Churches that register as Acts 1:8 Challenge churches will receive educational and promotional resources including video clips, sermon outlines, bulletin inserts and brochures on CD that support a Great Commission missions strategy.

The Acts 1:8 Challenge also will be featured as LifeWay Church Resources' 2005 doctrinal study. The 6-week study will be available through LifeWay Christian Stores and LifeWay.com in October.

The ActsOne8.com website will connect volunteers with mission opportunities and

resources offered through their local associations, state conventions, NAMB and IMB as well as provide free downloadable versions of the CD resources.

Jerry Daniels, church and partner services team director with the IMB, introduced an eight-step Acts 1:8 Challenge missions strategy to conference attendees:

• **Step One:** Prepare. "If you're going to do something that matters you've got to be intentional about it," Daniels said.

• **Step Two:** Learn. "In the preparation process you've got to find out what's going on in your world, who's living in your Jerusalem or your Judea, and who are missionaries and partners you can participate with," Daniels said. "Your congregation needs to have a global awareness of what God is doing around the world and how He's calling us to be involved with Him."

• **Step Three:** Pray. "Unless we're informed, our prayer is not as effective," Daniels said. "We need to first be praying that God would give us His kind of perspective of the world. We need to be praying for Christian

workers, for unevangelized people, for the lost cities. Prayer needs to permeate every aspect of this kind of strategy."

• **Step Four:** Give. "[In the New Testament], you will find churches gathering their resources together to minister to the needs of the saints," Daniels said. "We need to call our people to be good stewards both of their time and their financial resources."

• **Step Five:** Go. "We need to give our people opportunities to go on short-term trips, on marketplace ministries, to go into their neighborhoods, to go into the nations," Daniels said.

• **Step Six:** Tell. "We need to find out and help our people know how to relate and share the Gospel with someone from a very different culture," he said.

• **Step Seven:** Send. "We need to help cast a vision for people to invest their lives in missions for a career, for a lifetime and mentor those folks God is working with," Daniels said.

• **Step Eight:** Multiply. Churches need to start new churches and facilitate a church planting movement, he said.

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